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ed a few months ago, and at present consists of about thirty girls. They are taught to plat straw for bonnets and mats, and to make gloves at their own houses. Twice a week they attend at the school-room to be instructed in reading, writing and arithmetic, according to J. Lancaster's plan; when also further instruction is given in sewing and platting, to those who stand in need of it. The gloves are very neatly made, and the girls are paid in proportion as the work is neat and clean. The straw, which is of English growth, and bought in the warehouses in Dublin, is given to the girls ready split, and they are paid for platting according to the good quality of the work. It is intended to add the spinning of linen yarn, an article of manufacture not much practised in that quarter, to fill up any unemployed time, which might arise from an occasional want of sale for the gloves or straw plat. The

union of industry with the usual instruction in learning to poor children is very judicious. It is delightful to see them so busily employed at the cottage doors; and although it is a short time since the straw platting has been introduced into that country, many children are enabled to keep themselves neat and clean with the profits of their work. This manufacture must also be contemplated as of national importance, as the straw platting is so little known in Ireland, where the poorer classes frequently suffer so much from want of employment. The plan of giving premiums for neat platting is adopted in this school in order to stimulate the children to greater exertion.

A school has been established at Nurney, in the county Kildare, where Irish straw is used. The poor are taught to prepare the straw, and it is then bought from them.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From June 20, till July 20.

THE rain which has fallen since last report, has greatly improved the crops.—The late sown flax in particular, which in many parts of the country looked extremely ill, has recovered in an extraordinary manner, and the general appearance of the crop promises a plentiful supply of that staple commodity. The seed which was saved last year, has in general grown well, notwithstanding the unfavourableness of the season in which it was obtained, and affords ample encouragement to the growers, to persevere in their endeavours, to render themselves less dependent on foreign seed for the future.

The wheat crops although rather thin in many places, may upon the whole, be denominated good; some complaints of blast in various quarters have been circulated, but it is hoped, the malady is not extensive.

Oats in general are short, and cannot be called a luxuriant crop. Where they were late sown on poor clay soils, they are extremely bad.

The appearance of the potatoe crops is variable, where they were planted early on good soils, they are promising, but on the poor grounds, where planted during the dry weather, the plants have come up at different times, and seem weak and stunted in their growth.

Grazing grounds have been very defective this season, and the meadows are less productive, than has been experienced for many years.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

THE WOES OF WAR after having first reached the merchants and traders have now descended to the manufacturers, and the lower classes. *Bankruptcies* multiplying, and with no prospect of their termination, but increasing in arithmetical progression, as one brings down another; work-people thrown out of employment, so that the weaver takes the place of the harvest labourer, and all find a scarcity of work in order to procure a subsistence, mark the present times, and display a distressing aspect. To what are these accumulated difficulties and distresses, pervading almost all the classes of society owing? An answer may be returned in one short word, THE WAR.—It is the war, which put trade out of its accustomed channels, and forced capital, like the comet's blaze into the erratic and lawless track of speculation. War occasioned these speculations to be uncertain, at first generally attended with great gains, and latterly with great losses. The war encouraged the system of the extension of paper money, and the consequent facilities given to the spirit of speculation, and also by the introduction of a factitious and fictitious capital, had a tendency to raise the prices of the necessities of life, and enhance the expenses of living.—The war increased the taxes most enormously, and brought the weight of the public

burden home to every individual in proportion to his means, or rather unequally, in proportion to his expenditure, and made him feelingly understand the nature of the public debt, which, while he read of its increase by millions and hundreds of millions, scarcely gave any intelligible idea, and almost exceeded his notions of calculation, till it was brought home to him in a tangible shape in the way of taxation, and forced him to feel his share of the burden. The war also, by raising up a class of people who partook of its gains, and rose to sudden wealth, encouraged others by the spirit of emulation to follow the example of profuse expenditure, and the sober citizen and industrious plodder forsook their former habits, and were shamed out of their modest mediocrity to ape the manners and expenses of the commercial aristocracy who had successfully turned the times to their advantage, and profited by the gains made in the more early stages of hostility, and some of them by their participation in the public spoils as contractors and in other modes of gaining by the war. Thus the war occasioned increased expenses, and diminished means of meeting them; hence arises the present unexampled state of commercial distress, of which the approximate cause, and of the consequent misery, which is overspreading the land, is seeking to meet the increased expenses of the times, by engaging in more extensive and often hazardous schemes in trade. When difficulties arose, recourse was frequently had to supporting fictitious credit, by a system of drawing and redrawing bills, so that frequently two or more sets of bills were drawn to represent one transaction: the mass of paper afloat was thus enormously increased, and when greater difficulties arose an unlimited extension of bills was issued, to the almost certain ruin of those who thus suffer themselves to be involved. Once entangled, they found it impossible to extricate themselves, and the plunge of each successive month was deeper. They were thus reduced to all the shifts for raising money, which are stigmatized among mercantile men by the name of *kiting*, a metaphor borrowed from the more harmless amusement of children in flying their paper kites.

Unless the cause which led to this accumulation of evils is removed, and peace is speedily substituted for war, difficulties will be likely to increase, and recur at short intervals, until a general bankruptcy ensue, and the plans of Bonaparte, at first ridiculed, but now to be so seriously dreaded, for our destruction, by cutting up our trade and crippling our finances, will be in danger of being realized.

The cotton trade, which has been latterly so much better in Great Britain, than in this country, may now probably receive a severe check by the cords for the exclusion of British manufacture from the continent being drawn tighter by the annexation of Holland to France, and the other plans, which Bonaparte has in contemplation for our annoyance, in furtherance of his views of commercial warfare. In Ireland, the cotton trade has received no revival. The number of weavers thrown idle, and soliciting work as labourers, mark the extreme depression of this trade.

The linen trade is in a state of strange anomaly. Linens are selling at higher prices, in our brown markets, than can readily be procured for them white, at least in the London market. By this singular state, it would appear, that too much capital is still employed in this declining manufacture, notwithstanding large sums have latterly been abstracted from it. At the late market in Dublin large quantities of fine linens of the lighter fabric, were sold for exportation to America, but the coarser kind were scarcely at all in demand; much therefore of other descriptions remains on hand in Dublin, and in London not much is stirring, but it is said there is some demand at present for Martinique and Gaudaloupe. The flax crops are now looking pretty well, so that probably there may be a sufficient, if not an abundant supply for this season. We may thus be encouraged to look for a more regular trade for next year from an adequate supply of flax and a total discomfiture of the speculators, who intermeddled in this manufacture, and who have met with sufficient discouragement from speedily again embarking rashly in a similar adventure. But the prospect of a return to regular trade may be again delayed by some recent great failures of linen houses in London. As a proof of the decline of the linen trade, it may be mentioned that no less than six bleachgreens, the entire number between Lambeg and Belfast on the river Lagan, have been this year unoccupied; and that in most parts of the country, the value of bleachgreens has been most materially lowered.

The state of the working people in Dublin is deplorable in the extreme. Admit their faults have been great, and their management imprudent, they are now objects of compassion. They have not like the weavers in the country, an opportunity of seeking employment in the fields. Their habits led them to spend too much on whiskey while they had employment, and now when the pressure of the times arising from the general source of our calamities the war, have thrown them out of work, their misery is great. At all times, the inhabitants of a wretched lodging house in a large city are deficient in comfort, for in comparison, the meanest cabin or hovel in the country is superior, where at least fresh air is to be enjoyed, but now when hunger is

added to dirt, they claim the attention of the humane to alleviate their sufferings. Happily for them there is in Dublin an ample fund of benevolence to afford them relief; and there are also enlightened persons ready to step forward to hand it out in the most effectual manner. To the credit of Dublin it may be related, that some of their public permanent institutions, as the fever hospital, and their large school, in School-street, are conducted on a truly useful and practical plan, and temporary relief has on former occasions been administered in seasons of distress in a most judicious manner. But private exertions can do but little to avert the overwhelming torrent; the remedy lies beyond their reach. Peace alone can restore credit, and revive trade, so as to give effectual aid to our drooping manufactures. Can our statesmen now have the assurance to say that all things are going on well? Will they hazard the assertion amid all the bankruptcies, the stagnation of trade, and the distresses from these causes brought on the empire? We ask for bread and peace: and they give us war, and its consequences, bad trade, and increased taxation!

Although the Congress of the United States of North America previously to their prorogation, repealed the non-intercourse act, and left the trade with this country open for a time, yet there is no certainty of an adjustment of the differences between the two countries. But as the French are acting with still more hostility towards the Americans, it is probable the scale may be turned for accommodation with Britain, if our government would only profit by these events and make some reasonable and just concessions. But of this wise mode of acting there appears but a slender probability. The necessity of a free commercial intercourse with America, almost to our existence as a trading nation, is apparent from the benefit derived to our drooping manufactures and the general joy diffused in the trading world by the temporary revival of trade with that country. But it is very much to be apprehended that this temporary open will not be turned into permanent accommodation, and that a renewal of hostile orders, and acts may again take place still farther to embarrass trade, and manifest the absurdity and evils of hostility, whether the sword or restriction on commerce, is employed as the engine of annoyance.

Money is uncommonly scarce in London, and discounts difficult to be procured, as may be expected in the present crisis of bankruptcies in that city. Many country banks have failed in England. It is said there are about 750 of these money shops in the several parts of that country. The failure of some will cause a run on most others, and in their endeavours to provide for their security, they must necessarily make money still more scarce. It is impossible to tell how or when the present crisis will end, or who may not be ultimately involved. The association of traders is necessarily so great, that it forms a chain, to which if an electric spark is communicated, it is felt through the entire extent. As an instance of the distress arising from a failure in country banks, the following account may be given from Salisbury, that on Saturday the 14th inst. in the market of that town, the distress was extreme, it being with the greatest difficulty provisions could be procured there, as they had nothing apparently in circulation but the paper of the place, which is no longer current. At night numbers of women and children were seen in a deplorable condition, from this unfortunate pressure under which they labour incapacitating them from purchasing their usual stock of provisions.

The following picture of distress in London, is borrowed from the Morning Chronicle.

"The persons who were so eager for commercial importance, as to consign merchandize to every quarter of the world, where our shipping could find a port, without orders, and in which only they were to look for a market, are the persons who now find themselves embarrassed by the want of returns. The engagements to the manufacturers must be completed, and they have not even deposits to give to government as a security for debentures, even if relief should be thought advisable to be offered to them in that way. This is the case of those who went beyond their means in the way of exports.

"Those persons on the contrary, who are in distress by the depreciation of articles brought into the country, have incurred so severe loss by the fall of prices, that the original goods are not a sufficient security for the sum they are in want of, to answer the demands on them."

Such is the termination of those hazardous speculations, with which our merchants were delighted, in their golden but fallacious dreams of profit; and of which our statesmen boasted, as proofs of the commercial prosperity of the country.

In this report a view has been taken of the present state of trade and credit in various places. By such a comprehensive examination, it will appear that our present widely spread difficulties do not arise from local causes, affecting particular places, but result from deep seated and inveterate causes, which threaten accumulated distress, not to a portion, but to the empire at large, unless the danger is averted, not

by temporary expedients, but by a radical change of system, in our politics, our paper credit, and our commerce.

The butter buyers in Belfast again commenced their operations with the use of guineas, but have since discontinued their use. The premium on them has not advanced, owing to there being no demand for them in other trades, and as this is not the season for paying rents. Discount on bank notes is now about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. And exchange on London about $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for bank notes. In Newry it is about 8 per cent. and in Dublin $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 per cent.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From June 20, till July 20.

" Sweet Cista, rival of the rosy dawn,
Put forth her buds and grac'd the dewy lawn,
Expanded all her infant charms to light,
And flutter'd in the breeze, and blest the sight." DARWIN.
But oh! too blooming was her transient grace,
The blush was hectic that o'erspread her face,
One fatal morn beholds her beauties blow,
No noon of health succeeds, no evening glow,
Gay for that morn, a sad reverse she feels;
The mid-day sun her fragrant essence steals,
A weak Ephemerou, she yields her breath,
Gives to the winds her sweets, and sinks in death. W.

WHEN the great Linnæus endeavoured to characterize the productions of Nature, to animals he assigned the power of spontaneous locomotion as distinguishing them from vegetables; yet these seem to possess even this power in a degree almost equal to some animals; the moving saintfoin (*Hedysarum gyrans*) whose leaves during the day exhibit a constant motion, appears to approach as near to animation as the Sea-blubber (*Medusa*) or even the Sea Anemone (*Actinia*) which inhabits all our rocky shores, and many vegetables are more affected by light and heat, than Animals; no power with which we are yet acquainted, can prevent pinnated leaved plants from altering the position of their leaves, and apparently going to sleep, when they are deprived of light. A plant of *Mimosa decurrens* put into the dark, remained with its leaves fully expanded fifteen minutes, in one hour they became collapsed, but it required three hours exposure to the light, before the leaves had recovered their mid-day position. This phenomenon of going to sleep, is exhibited every evening by the sweet Pea, Bladder Sena, French Honeysuckle, and common Bean. Another no less curious property, and equally unaccountable, is presented every day in the expanding and shutting up of flowers, or their fading, even before they could be expected to have completed the intention of their formation; the flowers which may now be seen every morning to expand on the common Rock Rose (*Cistus Ladaniferus*) fall sooner or later to decay, according to the brightness or darkness of the day; others as the Salsafy (*Tragopogon Porrifolius*) are seen only to collapse at particular hours, but that with such regularity as to be truly astonishing; another class seemingly overpowered with the excess of light, as the night blowing Cereus (*Cactus grandiflorus*) Tree Prim-rose (*Oenothera biennis*) and white Lychnis (*Lychnis Vespertina*) only present their beauties, and give out their perfumes, when the sun has sunk below the horizon. Such and so various are the phenomena of the Creation, that we are led to exclaim—

Great is our God, and great is his power,
And his wisdom is unsearchable!

- June 22, Sweet White Azalea (*Azalea Viscosa glauca*) flowering.
23, Pompone Lily (*Lilium Pomponium*) three leaved Spiræa (*Spiræa trifoliata*) and Willow leaved Spiræa (*Spiræa salicifolia*) flowering. Grey Horse Fly or Cleg (*Tabanus pluvialis*) appearing.
25, Narrow leaved Willow Herb (*Epilobium angustifolium*) Downey Rose (*Rosa tomentosa*) Dog Rose (*Rosa Canina*) Rough Rose (*Rosa rugosa*) Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*) flowering.
26, Elder Tree (*Sambucus nigra*) and Constantinople Common Flag (*Gladolus Byzantinus*) flowering.
27, Red flowered Fraxinella (*Dictamnus Fraxinella*) flowering, Black-bird singing.
28, Bulbous Iris (*Iris Xiphium*) Goats beard Spiræa (*Spiræa Arimeus*) White Lychnidea (*Phlox suaveolens*) and small flowered Willow Herb (*Epilobium parviflorum*) flowering.
30, Blue Argus Butterfly (*Papilio Argus*) appearing.
July 1, Umbelled Rose Campion (*Agrostema Flos Jovis*) flowering.
3, Wheat shooting.